

CORRY HOMESTEAD, SOUTHERN MUSEUM  
OF FOLKLIFE

Birmingham Industrial District  
AL-69, 10 miles S of Jasper  
Oakman  
Walker County  
Alabama

HABS No. AL-949-B

HABS  
ALA  
64-OAK,  
1B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

ADDENDUM TO  
CORY HOMESTEAD,  
SOUTHERN MUSEUM OF FOLKLIFE  
(Old York Heritage Park)  
Birmingham Industrial District  
~~Between U.S. 78 & Burlington Northern Railroad~~  
~~State Rt 69, 10 miles south of Jasper~~  
~~Dona Oakman~~  
Walker County  
Alabama

HABS No. AL-949-B

HABS  
ALA  
64-OAK  
1B

WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

ADDENDUM TO  
CORY HOMESTEAD, SOUTHERN MUSEUM OF FOLKLIFE  
(Old York Heritage Park)

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CORY HOMESTEAD, SOUTHERN MUSEUM OF FOLKLIFE  
(Old York Heritage Park)

HABS  
ALA  
64-OAK,  
1B-

HABS No. AL-949-B

Location: AL 69, 10 miles south of Jasper in Oakman,  
Walker County, Alabama.

Owner: Harold Corry

Date  
of Construction: c. 1880s

Builder/Architect/  
Engineer: Harold Corry

Project  
Information: This report is based on written documentation  
donated by the Birmingham Historical Society,  
reformatted to HABS/HAER guidelines.

Significance: The residence reflect's the prosperity of the  
Corry family, which has continuously occupied  
it. It also contains the original log house  
structure.

Condition: Because the Heritage Park is a replicated  
mining boom town, the structures are in  
excellent condition. Mining artifacts are  
well-preserved and attractively displayed.

Source Consulted: Corry, Harold, owner, Old York, P.O. Box 244,  
Oakman, Alabama 35579

## DESCRIPTION

The Corry landholdings are situated in an area that was formerly an agricultural valley at the terminus of the Warrior Coal Field. The homestead site sits in a broad lawn area. A portion of the remainder of the site has been cleared by mining, timbering and most recently for construction of the Old York Heritage Park and associated parking.

Associated with the Corry Homestead site is the Old York Heritage Park. The Heritage Park recreates the 1880s mining boom era when Oakman, established in 1848 and originally called York, was the trade center of Walker County prior to the rise of Jasper as the dominant county center.

Owner Harold Corry has reconstructed a mining boom town streetscape that includes the Chamboredon Saloon, a general store, a hotel, and a blacksmith shop. The immense Rosewood bar in the reconstructed saloon is original, shipped to Oakman from Paris, France in the 1880s. The site also contains a two-story log house, a replica of the earliest Corry homeplace; a log church; and a bandstand, which incorporates a waterwheel to suggest a grist mill originally found on the property. A jail facsimile is currently under construction. A well and masonry trough also contribute to the 1880s setting.

## HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The Corry Family Homeplace was built as the residence of the current owner's great grandfather, Joseph Mortimer Corry in 1852. At one time, ownership extended to 900 acres surrounding the homeplace, and activities included farming, timbering and mining.

Harold Corry's artifact collection includes carriages, farming and blacksmithing implements, a Civil War ambulance, wagons and numerous other items.

The Old York Heritage Park is the setting for four special events held each year. During the Spring and Fall festivals, Mule and Wagon Day and the Christmas party, visitors relive the 1880s Walker County mining boom. Historic re-enactments, bluegrass and country music; demonstrations of blacksmithing, quilting, horseshoeing, log hewing, board splitting, bee-keeping, cotton spinning, wood carving and the making of pottery, candles, whiskey, soap, harnesses, brooms and sorghum syrup annually attract an estimated 100,000 visitors.

Although there is no site or long-range plan to guide the Heritage Park is continually evolving. Future plans include furnishing the original log cabin, creating a museum in the log home replica, and constructing a country music hall.